



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
WASHINGTON, DC 20310

2 OCT 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Celebration of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Program During National Disability Employment Awareness Month

For U.S. Army employees, October heralds the beginning of a new Fiscal Year. It is also National Disability Employment Awareness Month, and it is a perfect time to celebrate the Army's Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program and the theme of this year's celebration, "JWOD Works for America." The Army will kick-off its celebration with a video-teleconference on October 2, 2003, 10:30-11:30 a.m., EDT. In the event your Command cannot participate by viewing the broadcast, I encourage your local installation to select another day or week during the month of October to celebrate the JWOD program. Also, this is the time to recognize those individuals within your activities who support the JWOD program, and to learn more about JWOD capabilities that meet your procurement needs.

I am especially proud of the Army's efforts to provide employment and training opportunities for people with severe disabilities through our support of the JWOD Program. Under JWOD, supplies and services purchased by the U.S. Army and other Federal agencies currently generate jobs for nearly 40,000 Americans who are blind or who have other severe disabilities. Under the JWOD program, government purchase card users and acquisition personnel buy supplies and services furnished by nonprofit agencies that employ people who are blind or who have other severe disabilities. I ask all Army employees to help increase this number by identifying more contracting opportunities with the JWOD program.

President George W. Bush, in his New Freedom Initiative for people with disabilities, cites the 70 percent unemployment rate for this population, and pledges the Administration's commitment to increasing the ability of Americans with disabilities to integrate into the workforce. The major challenges to productive employment of qualified people with disabilities are barriers such as attitudes and false assumptions about what people can and cannot do. What people with disabilities can do is be productive.

Your efforts to use JWOD products and services and inform your colleagues about this program will help ensure that the U.S. Army makes an important contribution to President Bush's goal of fulfilling America's promise to Americans with disabilities.

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Please learn more about the important role you can play in this program at [www.jwod.gov](http://www.jwod.gov) and make a special effort to show your support during our celebration of the JWOD program throughout National Disability Employment Awareness Month, October 2003.



R. L. Brownlee

Acting Secretary of the Army

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